

# Turkmenistan Independence Day Special

## Pushing forward in a 'year of peace and trust'

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TO JAPAN



Turkmenistan is located in Central Asia and borders Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Russia via the Caspian Sea. The country has an area of 491.2 square kilometers

and is rich in oil and natural gas, with cotton being its major agricultural product. Turkmenistan holds the world's fourth-largest reserves of natural gas.

The country has a population of 6.2 million, with just over 1 million living in the capital city of Ashgabat. The official language is Turkmen and the currency of Turkmenistan is the Manat.

Turkmenistan is a relatively young state. It declared independence in 1991. On Dec. 12, 1995, the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution on the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan, which has become the guiding principle of Turk-

menistan's foreign policy. On June 3, 2015, a second resolution by the General Assembly regarding the permanent neutrality of Turkmenistan was adopted. On Feb. 2, 2017, at the General Assembly's 71st session, a resolution was adopted proclaiming Dec. 12 as the International Day of Neutrality. At the initiative of the president of Turkmenistan, the General Assembly in September 2019 unanimously adopted a resolution titled "2021 — the International Year of Peace and Trust."

Today Turkmenistan celebrates a historical event in the life of our country and society — the 30th anniversary of the motherland's independence. And each day of the year proclaimed under the slogan "Turkmenistan — Home of Peace and Trust" is signified by glorious labor achievements. For 30 years, the country has followed the chosen path, predetermined by the centuries-old aspirations and covenants of its ancestors — to protect the homeland, peace, harmony and the unity of the nation.

The highest appraisal of Turkmenistan and the peaceful nature of the Turkmen people by the global community was the adoption by the U.N. of the Resolution on the Permanent Neutrality of Turkmenistan.

Independence and neutrality contrib-

ute to the growth and strengthening of the authority of Turkmenistan, a country that has proclaimed as a priority of its political strategy the development of mutually beneficial cooperation with all states and peoples of the world, strictly observing international legal norms and obligations. Together, independence and neutrality have become efficient instruments for attracting foreign investment and initiating constructive measures for consolidating peace and safety and strengthening cooperation in Central Asia and the Caspian Sea basin.

Taking this opportunity of looking back over the diplomatic history of Turkmenistan, I would like to introduce the history of how our two countries developed friendly ties as well.

Since the establishment of Turkmen-Japanese diplomatic relations in April 1992, a friendly partnership has been cultivated. Mutual visits by the leaders of both countries have given impetus to the further development of our relations.

We actively cooperate within the framework of international organizations, where our countries take similar or close positions on such key issues as the global agenda for strengthening peace and security, nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction,

preserving the ecology and the environment, implementing the United Nations sustainable development goals and a number of other important matters.

The parliamentary friendship groups of both countries are actively communicating with each other, and exchanges between members of both parliaments are also expanding.

Many collaborative projects are being implemented in the economic sphere. To the present, four large chemical plants utilizing Turkmenistan's natural gas have been constructed, and a gas-turbine thermal power plant was successfully commissioned on Sept. 3. The construction in the Lebap region of the 432-megawatt gas-turbine plant with the participation of Sumitomo Corp. has been referred to as an example of effective Turkmen-Japanese cooperation. And it is my pleasure that Japanese technology is contributing to the diversification of Turkmenistan's industry and economic development.

Furthermore, bilateral cooperation is strengthening in the field of education. I am glad that the number of people studying the Japanese language is rapidly increasing in Turkmenistan.

2022 will mark the 30th anniversary since



The Turkmen State Institute of Culture in Ashgabat is built from Turkmenistan's abundant white marble.  
EMBASSY OF TURKMENISTAN

the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkmenistan and Japan. The government of Turkmenistan intends to make efforts to further deepen cooperation between our two countries in many areas, such as politics, economics and culture.

We are confident that the potential of the created interaction mechanisms is great, and planned activities in this direction will contribute to the development of friendly and fraternal interstate relations between Turkmenistan and Japan.

*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*



A monument marks Galkynysh (Revival) Square across from Turkmen State University.  
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the Anniversary of  
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